GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:173
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004
OPENING OF CLOSED MINES
Gandhi Shri Pradeep;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines lying closed at present and the number of employees working therein;

(b) whether the Government proposes to reopen closed coal mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has constituted a committee to extend protection to the workers of closed coal mines in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
Statement referred to in parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.173 for 16.7.2004 by Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and Shri Pradeep Gandhi regarding opening of closed mines.

(a): 184 mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and 30 mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are at present lying closed since nationalization. The workers working in these mines have been redeployed in working mines and a few workers are engaged in some of these mines for pumping and safety of adjoining mines. No worker has been rendered jobless due to the closure of these coal mines.

(b)&(c) : Closing of mines is an on-going part of the mining process. Mines are closed by coal companies due to various reasons, which mainly include exhaustion of reserves; techno-economic reasons; safety considerations; adverse geo-mining conditions; fire; drowning of Pit; to work through other incline/ amalgamated with other mines; due to poor off-take; unviable poor grade of coal etc. Coal companies take a decision to open a closed mine on techno economic considerations − like availability of new technology to make such opening commercially and technically viable.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise in view of reply given in part(a) to (c) above.